

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
- b) a naturally occurring polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
- 10 c) a biologically active fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and
- d) an immunogenic fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
2. An isolated polypeptide of claim 1, having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
3. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 1.
4. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 2.
- 20 5. An isolated polynucleotide of claim 4, having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
6. A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 3.
- 25 7. A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 6.
8. A transgenic organism comprising a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 6.

9. A method for producing a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

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- a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 1, and
 - b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

10. A method of claim 9, wherein the polypeptide has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

10 11. An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 1.

12. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

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- a) a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
 - b) a naturally occurring polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence at least 90% identical to a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
 - c) a polynucleotide having a sequence complementary to a polynucleotide of a),
 - d) a polynucleotide having a sequence complementary to a polynucleotide of b) and
 - e) an RNA equivalent of a)-d).

20 13. An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 12.

25 14. A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 12, the method comprising:

- a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under

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15. A method of claim 14, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

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- SECRET**

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- exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
- detecting agonist activity in the sample.

21. A composition comprising an agonist compound identified by a method of claim 20 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

22. A method for treating a disease or condition associated with decreased expression of functional integral membrane protein, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a composition of claim 21.

23. A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
- b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

24. A composition comprising an antagonist compound identified by a method of claim 23 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

25. A method for treating a disease or condition associated with overexpression of functional integral membrane protein, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a composition of claim 24.

26. A method of screening for a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 1, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with at least one test compound under suitable conditions, and
- b) detecting binding of the polypeptide of claim 1 to the test compound, thereby identifying a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 1.

27. A method of screening for a compound that modulates the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1, said method comprising:

- a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with at least one test compound under conditions permissive for the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1,
- b) assessing the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test compound, and
- 5 c) comparing the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test compound with the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the absence of the test compound, wherein a change in the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test compound is indicative of a compound that modulates the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1.

10 28. A method for screening a compound for effectiveness in altering expression of a target polynucleotide, wherein said target polynucleotide comprises a polynucleotide sequence of claim 12, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising the target polynucleotide to a compound, under conditions suitable for the expression of the target polynucleotide,
- b) detecting altered expression of the target polynucleotide, and
- c) comparing the expression of the target polynucleotide in the presence of varying amounts of the compound and in the absence of the compound.

20 29. A method for assessing toxicity of a test compound, said method comprising:

- a) treating a biological sample containing nucleic acids with the test compound;
- b) hybridizing the nucleic acids of the treated biological sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 12 under conditions whereby a specific hybridization complex is formed between said probe and a target polynucleotide in the biological sample, said target polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 12 or fragment thereof;
- 25 c) quantifying the amount of hybridization complex; and

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34. A composition of claim 32, wherein the antibody is labeled.

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37. An antibody produced by a method of claim 36.

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40'. A monoclonal antibody produced by a method of claim 39.

41'. A composition comprising the antibody of claim 40 and a suitable carrier.

5 42'. The antibody of claim 11, wherein the antibody is produced by screening a Fab expression library.

43'. The antibody of claim 11, wherein the antibody is produced by screening a recombinant immunoglobulin library.

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44. A method for detecting a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 in a sample, comprising the steps of:

- a) incubating the antibody of claim 11 with a sample under conditions to allow specific binding of the antibody and the polypeptide; and
- b) detecting specific binding, wherein specific binding indicates the presence of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 in the sample.

45. A method of purifying a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 from a sample, the method comprising:

- a) incubating the antibody of claim 11 with a sample under conditions to allow specific binding of the antibody and the polypeptide; and
- b) separating the antibody from the sample and obtaining the purified polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

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